

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Patent Application of:

JEFFREY J. GRATZ

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TWO-SIDED ROLL SUPPORT  
WITH MULTIPLE RIBS

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Christine Kierzek

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Christine Kierzek 8-8-01  
Signature

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box Preliminary Amendment-No Fee  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In advance of examination, Applicants respectfully request that the following  
amendment be entered.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**RECEIVED**

DEC 22 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Please add new claims 6 to 20, as follows:

- 6. A support structure for supporting an object, comprising:  
an elongated member extending along a longitudinal axis and having first and  
second sides and first and second edges;  
a first set of ribs projecting from the first side of the elongated member and  
corresponding to a first set of depressions in the second side of the elongated member, the

first set of ribs including first, second and third ribs axially spaced from each other along an axis transverse to the longitudinal axis; and

a second set of ribs projecting from the first side of the elongated member at a location axially spaced from the first set of ribs so as to define an object receiving cradle therebetween, the second set of ribs including first, second and third ribs axially spaced from each other along a second axis transverse to the longitudinal axis of the elongated member.

7. The support structure of claim 6 wherein the second ribs of the each of the sets of ribs are axially spaced from edges of the elongated member.

8. The support structure of claim 6 further comprising:

a first rib projecting from the second side of the elongated member and corresponding to a first depression in the first side of the elongated member between the first and second ribs of the first set of ribs; and

a second rib projecting from the second side of the elongated member at a location axially spaced the first rib projecting from the second side of the elongated member so as to define a second side object receiving cradle therebetween, the second rib projecting from the second side of the elongated member corresponding to a second depression in the first side of the elongated member between the first and second ribs of the second set of ribs.

9. The support structure of claim 8 wherein the first, second and third ribs of the first set of ribs and the first, second and third ribs of the second set of ribs have a predetermined height and wherein the first and second ribs projecting from the second side of the elongated member have a predetermined height.

10. The support structure of claim 9 wherein the predetermined height of the first, second and third ribs of the first set of ribs and of the first, second and third ribs of the second set of ribs is generally equal to the predetermined height of the first and second ribs projecting from the second side of the elongated member.

11. The support structure of claim 6 further comprising a third set of ribs projecting from the first side of the elongated member at a location axially spaced from the second set of ribs so as to define a second object receiving cradle therebetween, the third set of ribs including first, second and third ribs axially spaced from each other along a third axis transverse to the longitudinal axis of the elongated member.

12. The support structure of claim 6 wherein the first side of the elongated member includes a first depression formed therein between the first and second ribs of the first set of ribs, the first depression corresponding to a first rib projecting from the second side of the elongated member.

13. The support structure of claim 12 wherein the first side of the elongated member includes a second depression formed therein between the first and second ribs of the second set of ribs, the second-depression corresponding to a second rib projecting from the second side of the elongated member wherein the first and second ribs projecting from the second side of the elongated member define a second side object receiving cradle therebetween.

14. A support structure for supporting an object, comprising:  
an elongated member extending along a longitudinal axis and having first and second sides, first and second edges, and first and second ends, the first side of the elongated member including:

a first plurality of ribs projecting therefrom and being spaced between the first and second ends along a first axis;

a second plurality of ribs projecting therefrom and being spaced between the first and second ends along a second axis;

a third plurality of ribs projecting therefrom and being spaced between the first and second ends along a third axis;

a first plurality of depressions formed therein and being spaced between the first and second ends along a first depression axis disposed between the first and second axis; and

a second plurality of depressions formed therein and being spaced between the first and second ends along a second depression axis disposed between the second and third axis.

15. The support structure of claim 14 wherein each of the first plurality of ribs is aligned with a corresponding rib of the second plurality of ribs and with a corresponding rib of the third plurality of ribs along a corresponding axis transverse to the longitudinal axis of the elongated member.

16. The support structure of claim 15 wherein each of the first plurality of depressions is disposed between one of the first plurality of ribs and one of the second plurality of ribs and wherein each of the second plurality of depressions is disposed between one of the second plurality of ribs and one of the third plurality of ribs.

17. The support structure of claim 14 wherein each of the first plurality of depressions forms a corresponding rib projecting from the second side of the elongated member, the ribs projecting from the second side of the elongated member being spaced between the first and second ends along the first depression axis.

18. The support structure of claim 17 wherein the ribs projecting from the second side of the elongated includes a first rib and a second rib, the first rib and the second rib defining a second side object receiving cradle therebetween.

19. The support structure of claim 14 wherein the first plurality of ribs projecting from the first side of the elongated member includes a first rib and a second rib, the first rib and the second rib partially defining a first object receiving cradle therebetween.

20. The support structure of claim 19 wherein the second plurality of ribs projecting from the first side of the elongated member includes a first rib and a second rib, the first rib and the second rib of the second plurality of ribs partially defining the first object receiving cradle therebetween. --

### REMARKS

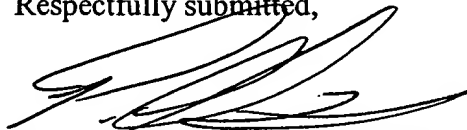
Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested. New claims 6-20 have been added. Claims 1-5 are pending in the application.

### CONCLUSION

No other fees are believed to be payable with this communication. Nevertheless, should the Examiner consider any other fees to be payable in conjunction with this or any future communication, the Director is authorized to direct payment of such fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1170.

The application is now ready for examination on the merits. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter C. Stomma, Reg. No. 36,020

Boyle Fredrickson Newholm Stein & Gratz S.C.  
250 East Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1030  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
Phone: (414) 225-9755  
Fax: (414) 225-9753  
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